

Amendment No. 1 to HB1175

**Cooper B
Signature of Sponsor**

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1452*

House Bill No. 1175

FILED

Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 13, Chapter 27, is amended by adding sections 2 through 9 as a new part 3.

SECTION 2. This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee International Trade and Education Assistance Center Act of 2001".

SECTION 3.

As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires, "small and medium-sized businesses or companies" means those companies or farms with annual sales not exceeding twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000), seeking to enter foreign markets.

SECTION 4.

(a) There is hereby created the international trade and educational assistance center board. The board shall consist of seven (7) members, which shall be appointed by the governor from the private sector and shall include at least one (1) person from each of the following backgrounds:

- (A) Community-at-large;
- (B) International banking;
- (C) International finance;
- (D) International law or intellectual property;
- (E) Transportation;
- (F) A representative of a port authority; and

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(G) A student.

(b) In addition, six (6) persons from the community-at-large shall serve as ex officio nonvoting members of the board.

(c) The board shall elect its own officers and a majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

(d) The department of economic and community development shall solicit members from the areas specified in this section who shall serve at no expense to the state. Members shall solicit financial support from the private and other sectors. Expenditures of the board shall be limited to available funding received from nonstate resources.

SECTION 5.

(a) The board shall meet at least quarterly and has the following duties and powers:

(1) Serve as an advocate for promoting and obtaining programs and services that will enable small and medium-sized companies and farms to enter and compete in foreign markets and disseminate pertinent information to the business, agricultural, and financial community;

(2) Develop an educational center that offers certification programs in trade issues, internships, training, distance learning, exposure to foreign languages, exposure to financial issues, and a focus on trade and natural resources and agriculture;

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(3) Provide for a mutual exchange of ideas and information on the international, national, state and local level and attempt to make Tennessee products competitive in international markets by encouraging efforts in education, finance, insurance, transportation, and promotion;

(4) Assist other statewide agencies or organizations, both public and private, regarding matters affecting international trade in developing a comprehensive strategy for the encouragement of international trade and export development;

(5) Accept reports from any state authorized funding entity on the effectiveness of the state's efforts in this area;

(6) Appoint such advisory committees as it deems appropriate; and

(7) File annual reports or more often if necessary with the governor and the speakers of the two (2) houses of the general assembly and the appropriate standing committees.

(b) The board and its programs shall be subject to audit by the comptroller of the treasury.

SECTION 6. The board shall employ an executive director. The executive director shall serve as executive secretary to the board.

SECTION 7.

(a) The members of the board shall receive no compensation for their services, but the members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by

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the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(b) The board is administratively attached to the department of economic and community development, but for all purposes other than administration is considered independent.

(c) The board may:

- (1) Create subcommittees related to its purpose;
- (2) Conduct hearings;
- (3) Employ staff, subject to the availability of funds;
- (4) Enter contracts for technical or professional services, subject to the availability of funds; and
- (5) Perform such other duties as are required.

SECTION 8.

(a) The board shall develop an educational center to provide assistance to small businesses seeking to enter foreign markets. The board may enter into contracts or grants with an appropriate public or not-for-profit entity as a means of developing the educational center. The board and the executive director shall maintain effective oversight of the center and its program. In order for the board to provide grants to the center, the entity shall agree to provide programs consistent with the provisions of this act.

(b) The center may develop funding from both public and private sources. Such sources may include, but are not limited to, state funds and revenues from fees.

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(c) The center shall develop educational programs to assist small businesses and individuals seeking to enter foreign markets by distributing information regarding import and export laws, international business, federal trade regulations and other relevant matters. Students in grades K through 12 and students enrolled in institutions of higher learning shall participate in the educational programs to be developed by the center. The center shall also serve as a referral and guidance resource.

(d)

(1) The center shall develop programs to assist businesses and individuals seeking to enter foreign markets with understanding the requirements of appropriate federal agencies. Such agencies shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (A) The United States customs service;
- (B) The United States department of transportation;
- (C) The United States department of agriculture; and
- (D) The federal aviation administration.

(2) The center may also enter into agreements with other agencies and educational institutions to assist small businesses and individuals in completing appropriate forms in order to comply with applicable federal regulations regarding the import and export of goods.

(e) The center shall assist small businesses and individuals by providing or contracting for the provision of educational seminars. The seminars shall address aspects of international business, including finance and economics.

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(f) The center may enter into agreements with local offices of the federal small business administration, appropriate chambers of commerce and port authorities to assist entrepreneurs in obtaining financing.

SECTION 9. The international trade and educational assistance center board, in consultation with the commissioner of economic and community development, is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the provisions of this act in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.